

Murray History Advisory Board
Minutes for July 20, 2010

Attendance: Jay Bollwinkle, David Adams, Steve Meyers, Mary Ann Kirk (staff)

Excused: Lee Brinton, Susan Wright

1. Minutes for June 22, 2010 were approved as written. Board vacancies were reviewed. We will have several new board members over the next few months.
2. Board members reported that the downtown meeting was well attended. Most board members were in attendance. Board members didn't remember them passing out the ordinance. Mary Ann reviewed the historic building designation criteria and the hardship wording. She noted that she was concerned about the ordinance wording related to demolition exceptions for historic buildings. Board members agreed the wording "impractical based on the condition of the existing building, structural incompatibility or other similar constraints" is already addressed in the hardship clause. The condition of the building is of particular concern because a building can be upgraded and that cost is part of the hardship clause. Steve suggested wording such as "The inability to reasonably incorporate the historic building into the overall design of the development." He felt the consultants were positive about historic preservation. Jay said that architects can be creative and incorporate historic buildings if they know at the beginning of the project. Jay was excited about their plan which incorporated the performing arts center. Mary Ann noted that Lee was concerned about the allowed height on Center Street. Jay agreed and suggested that height is more appropriate west of State Street. Steve couldn't understand why they need to do anything on the east side. Jay thought a residential style on the east side with similar scale would be more appropriate. He was more concerned that a wall facing away from the street would be allowed.
3. Mary Ann reviewed a presentation outline to the City Council on August 17 at 5:30 pm. Mary Ann, Barbara Murphy and Don Hartley from the State Preservation Office and Kirk Huffacker from the Utah Heritage Foundation will make the presentation. It will include what Murray is currently doing related to historic preservation, what the CLG program is and funding mechanisms, building codes and how it differs with historic buildings, advantages of historic preservation and what other communities are doing to address historic preservation. Mary Ann recently visited Draper. They have moved a number of historic buildings near the city hall and a park. One home has been restored for the Chamber of Commerce. Board members were encouraged to attend and Jay suggested each should be introduced.
4. A workshop and bus tour will be held on September 18 around Poplar Street. A walking tour discussing exterior maintenance tips will begin the day at 9:30 am followed by workshops related to maintenance and upgrades for historic buildings. Mary Ann will invite those who are on our registry. An afternoon bus tour at 1:30 pm will include little-known facts about the historic buildings throughout the city. Steve thought this was a great idea and will try to attend. He has appreciated learning about the community. Steve

noted that Mark Redd is proud of his historic plaque on his home. Mary Ann said that the owner pays for the plaque but Murray City approves the wording. We may want to pay for some of these in the future with a CLG grant.

5. Mary Ann shared a photo of a baby buggy used in the 1930s. The people who owned the buggy used it for their children who were born in the Cottonwood Maternity hospital. The potential donor who is a Murray resident also used it for her children. A museum committee will determine if we want to accept the buggy as a museum donation. David asked if the Cottonwood Maternity hospital building is still there. Mary Ann noted that the building was originally a home, changed to the hospital, and then encased inside another structure where it still stands. There is nothing visible of the historic structure.
6. Board members enjoyed a short tour of the museum. Mary Ann explained the history of the museum. She also noted that if the city hall is moved, the old power building would be a good alternative location for the museum. Some improvements have already occurred on this building. It would give us much more space and could focus on the development of the city through the changes in power. Steve liked the idea of having the museum in the city hall. Mary Ann agreed, but acknowledged it would be nice to have the museum in a historic building.
7. Next meeting will be held August 24.